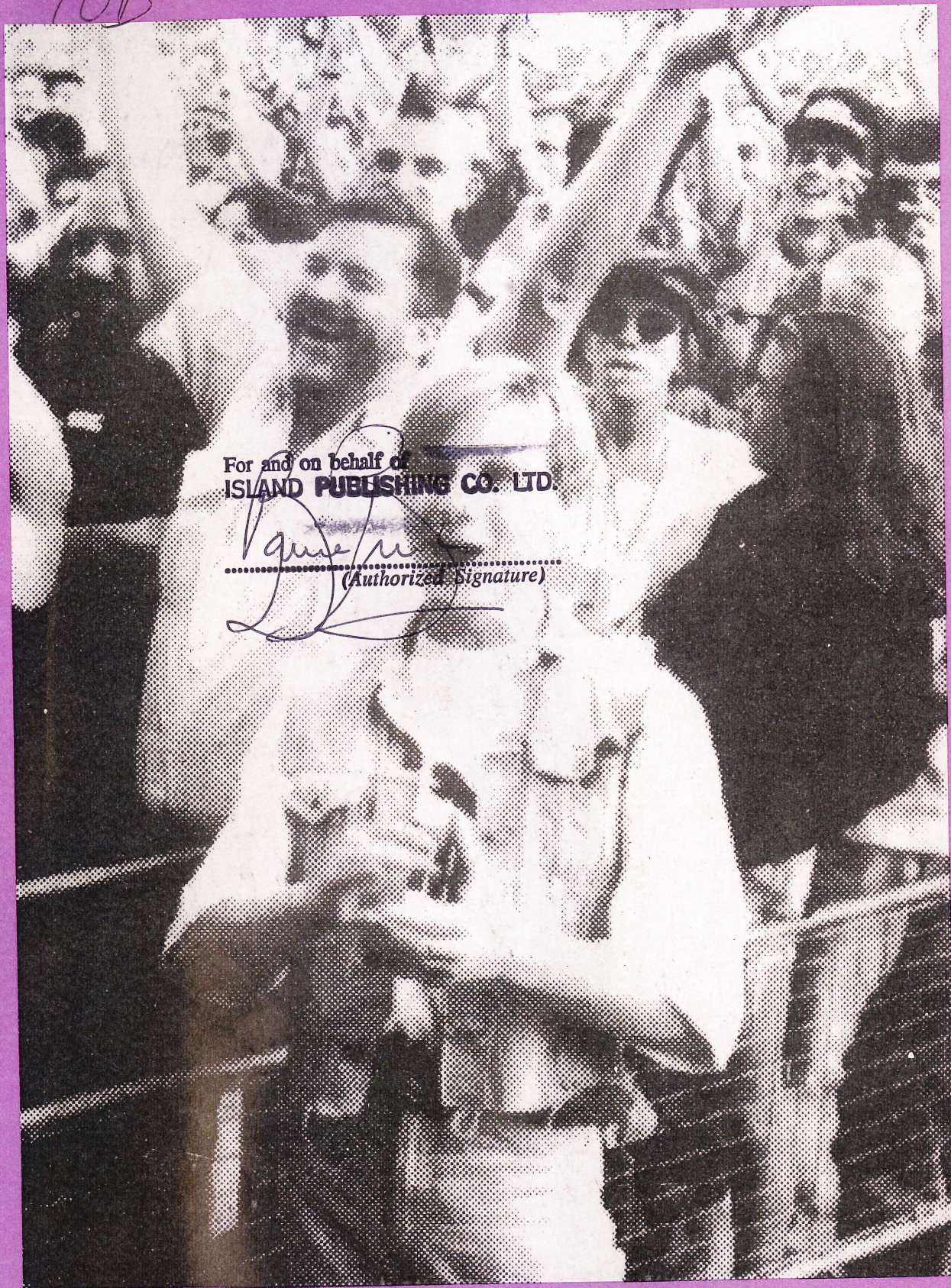


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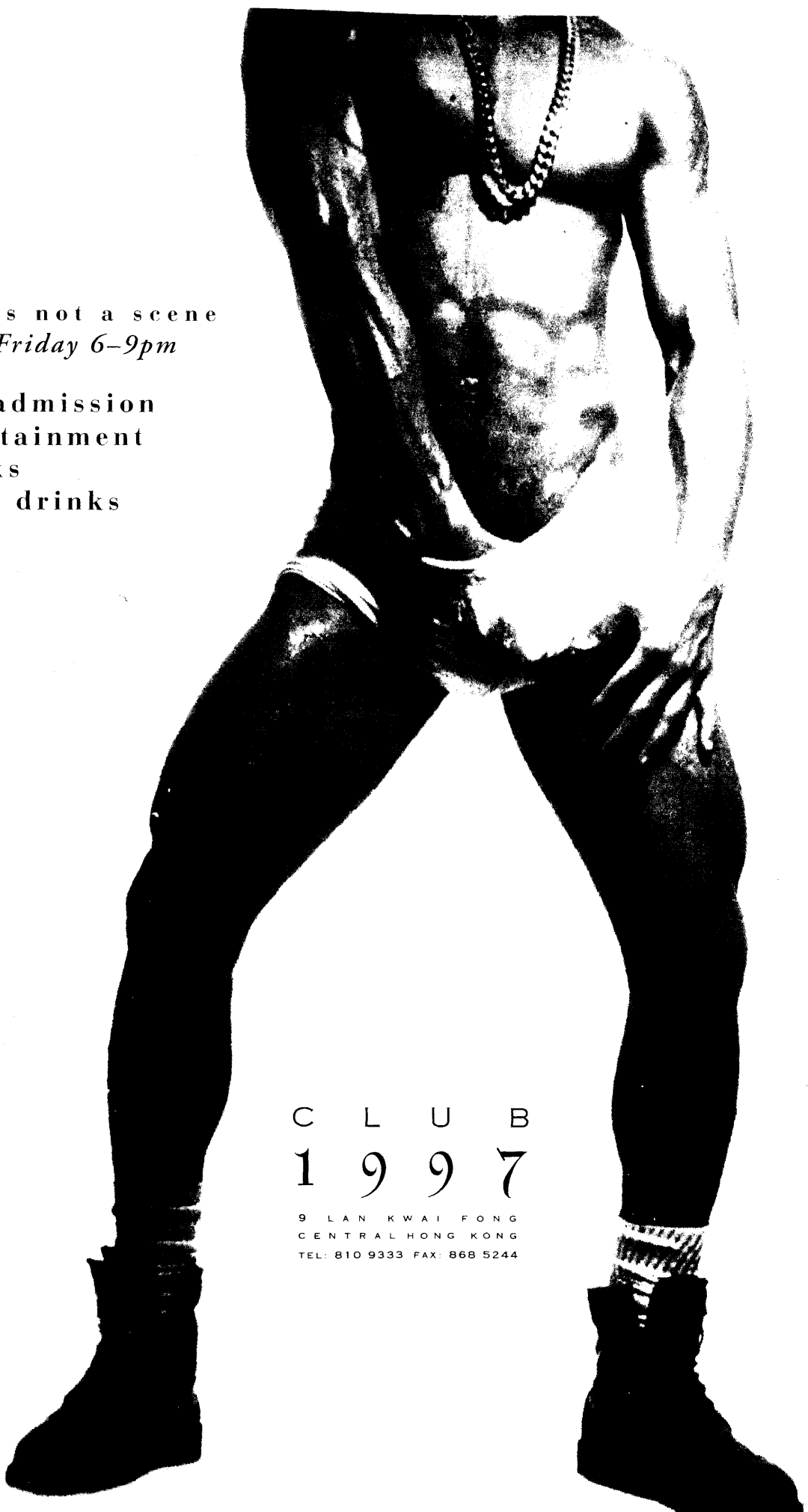
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# EDITORIAL

**Nothing Stands Still, especially in Hong Kong!** We have made some very important changes to Contacts Magazine, that will benefit you as a reader. With over 2,000 readers a month the pressure was on us to produce an even better and bigger magazine for the gay community and here it is!

We have increased the size by **250 per cent!** More and much larger pages, room for more articles, stories and local and international news, and of course those important personal adverts to meet the right person.

**Great** news that women and people with disabilities are, at last, to get some measure of protection against discrimination in Hong Kong. We were so busy congratulating these groups that we didn't see others of their number scurrying to Government House to show their appreciation for being accepted, after not too much of a fight, for equal rights.

What wasn't isn't so **great** is the way the Government has used these two groups of people to claim they are going all out for equal rights. It's true women and disabled people will get some rights, but these are in comparison to Anna Wu's proposed bill, very limited and piecemeal. Indeed, in the case of pregnant women the Government changed its mind about their rights twice in as many weeks! Its' also not very **great**, is it, that these two groups have allowed themselves to be bought off— at the same time they seem to have forgotten that there are other groups who also need equal rights.

What would have been **great** would have been for all the groups of people discriminated against to have stood together to demand equal rights. Praise must go to the Movement Against Discrimination who have stood with gay people and are continuing to demand equal rights for all.

One gay activist recently said "Respect has to be earned." With the **greatest** respect that statement needs to be challenged! Acceptance for all needs to be our watchword, regardless of who or what they are.

## Contacts Magazine

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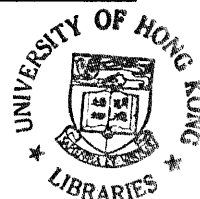
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22 MAY 1995

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「口難開.有什麼事可以幫到你。」

「口難開.有什麼事可以幫到你。」他連續說了兩次,但電話

的另一邊還是沒有回答.他沒有放棄.他知道每一個來電者都是有一個難以向人啓齒的故事.尤其是我們同性戀者每每遇到困難時真是想找一個可以傾訴的對象也十分困難.

「朋友,電話已經接通了.而你跟我又不是面對面,有任何困難的地方不妨說出來;縱使我幫不到你,但說出來總好過埋藏於心底裡;你說是嗎?」他嘗試用不同的方法,不同的說話,遁遁善誘地勸這個沈默的朋友開口.

其實,當初創辦這條口難開熱線時純粹是由一個戲言開始.記得那個晚上跟幾位相熟的朋友在一間夜店喝酒,酒已經喝得七七八八;大家都有幾分酒意,所談論的都是一些摸不著天際的話題;全不相關的.

其中有位朋友說:「志平,你真是我們的軍師;每逢有麻煩事,只要跟你相量,便會迎刃而解。」

另外的插口說:「一點沒錯.我們大家都是同性戀者,有困難時要找相人相量,的確確有難題全在著.尤其關乎自己的切身問題時,如:應不應告知家人自己是一名同性戀者,或是在性方面的疑問等等.就更加不知找誰了.幸好我們有你這個有求必應的傢伙.不至於像其他人一樣不知所措」

另外一個說:「其實你學識咁豐富,上至天文下至地理;無一不精,無一不曉.點解不設立一條熱線,讓身為同志的我們每遇到任何

困難時也可以找人相量.你說對嗎?」

我記得當時是說:「不要太抬舉我了.當你們找我時我也不知道會否幫得上忙,只是盡力而為吧。」雖然我是這樣說,但是成立一條熱線專為同志服務的念頭總是揮之不去.終於我立下決心成立一條電話熱線.我為這條熱線想了幾個名字:心深深、心底話及口難開.我選擇了最後者.「口難開」這個名字相當配襯同志的處境,正如大部份的同志都是有口難言,有很多說話都想與人分享,但就是缺乏談話對象;於是乎我決定用這個名字「口難開」.

第二個步驟便是要其他人知道有此「口難開電話熱線」,我刊登了一則小廣告.內容是:

心底話,無從訴,口難開.

如同志有以上難題,

電XXX-XXXX.

費用全免

起初並沒有太多電話,而且不時還有些騷擾性電話.我並不介意,就算一整個晚上只得一個電話,我也高興;最低限度我也可以幫到一個同志.我這個人便是這樣,一旦決定要做的事情是絕不會容易放棄的.

黃天不負有心人,數月後,電話多了,我順應雖求將每星期的一晚增至三晚.給我最大鼓舞的事,有某些朋友會寄一些賀咭、信件,甚止乎是一些小小的禮物.在來信中他們會告知我他們的情況,及多謝我的意見;還給我一些鼓勵的說話.這些都不是金錢可以買到的.這一切的回報都給我很大的鼓舞,令我更加有信深將「口難開」做得更好更

完美;令到要幫忙的同志得到援手.但,我並沒有發覺自己的思想、行為及注意力全都集中在「口難開」;腦海中所想的全是關於它的一切.工餘所做的也是關於它的,到圖書館收集資料、剪下有關同志的新聞等等.總括而言除卻上班和睡眠,我所剩餘的時間全給它佔有了.令我忽略了身邊的人與事.直至我的愛人跟我說,我才如夢初醒.而且他告訴我的方法頗為戲劇法.可能每當他想說時我都藉詞「忙」,不給他跟我說的機會吧!

「口難開.有什麼事可以幫到你。」電話筒內傳來一把嬌滴滴的聲音說:「是口難開嗎?」

「是.有什麼事可以跟你分享嗎?」

「我有一個問題.但又不知怎樣說出來。」

「你不用急.你的問題是關於什麼的?是戀人間的問題?是關於愛滋病?還是其它.我們

有很充餘的時間可以漫漫談。」

「你把聲在電話裏很好聽.有點像我的另一半,但佢一點都不關心.每次我跟他說我們出外吃飯,或是去看一場電影.他總是說沒有時間,有很多事還沒做完.坦白對你說也不妨,我已經差不多兩個多月沒有跟他出外了;不單如此,連房事也沒有。」

終於也到正主兒了.所以只以有耐性,他們一定會說出他們的故事.「你有沒有嘗試跟他說呢?」

「一天到晚,我和他連十句說話也談不上;教我怎樣有機會跟他說.但我知道他還是愛我的.只是給其它事纏繞著吧。」

「你說，他還是愛你的，可能現在他比較忙沒有時間陪你吧！當他完成手上的工作時，便會跟你出外吃飯看戲的了。我問你，你還愛不愛他。」

「愛。當然愛，我還是很愛他的，就是受不了他整天工作，沒有時間陪我。他很有型的，有很多朋友都說他像某某紅歌星。你說我應該怎樣去解決我跟他的問題。」

「據你說，他不是不愛你，而你還是愛他的，最好的解決辦法就是你

月。連自己也不知道我是如此忽略了我所愛的男人。所以我便去付約。不過到現在我還不時提起這件事，說他頑皮；而且還要花一筆錢購買那部聲音轉換器。但樂天一於好少理說：「是你迫我的。」扮個鬼面便滾之大吉。

到酒吧途中，我思索要怎樣去完滿解決今次我跟他的問題。

一是瀟灑地與他分手，但他是我愛的男人；而且今次只不過是一則小誤會，絕對不可能是一個分手的好

聽到這話，令我放下心頭大石。「樂天，這是不是說我們還是像往式一樣生活。」

「答案是不。」

「那我就更加不理解了，究竟你想怎樣，請你說清楚吧。」

「在等你到來的一段時間裏，我聽到幾個人談論有關熱線口難開，他們都說幸好有這條熱線；有事要跟人傾訴時也有個對像。而且他們還讚你做得好呢。經我再三思量，你為什麼沒有時間陪我；主要的理由並不是在你，或是口難開；而是人手不足。雖求量太大了，而只得你獨力支持；所以便沒有時間陪。我的要求便是要你準我加入你的行列，行嗎？」

這個要求真的令我喜出望外。「樂天，你願意加入真是求之不得；歡迎之至。」

「但我不知道可不可以幫到你，但我想多一雙手，總好過要你獨力支持吧。更可況我們又可以一起工作，一起解決問題。人多了，事便會快一步完成；到時你便會有時間陪我了。」

「一定一定，從今起我一定會抽時間陪你；留意你關心你愛你。」

「樂天，在到酒吧前我想了很多不好的結果。如你要跟我分手，要我放棄口難開等等。」

「志平，假如要我跟你一起生活的唯一條件是要你放棄口難開；你會照做嗎？」

「假如魚與熊掌不可兼得，我當然會選你。」

「其實我想我不應太過自私的，只要你活得開心；活得有意義，身為你的男人是應該支持你的。對嗎？」

「樂天，多謝你。有你這個老公一起生活是我的福氣。」

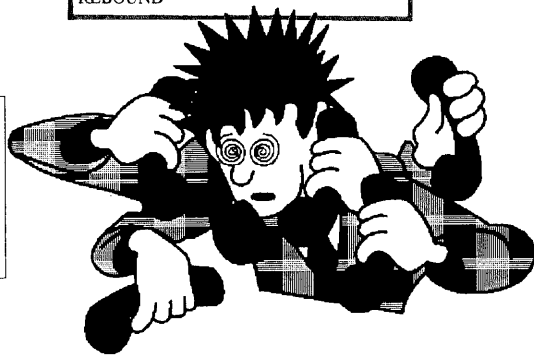
「但我有你這個老公一起生活也是我的福氣。」

樂天笑著說：「我是魚還是熊掌呀！」而我卻說猜猜吧！



志平，好悶呀，我們可否出外吃飯或是看一場電影呀！

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樂天，不要煩我吧。你看不見我有很多事要辦嗎？如果你悶你便自己去看電影吧。

本人跟他面對面說出你對他的不瞞，總比你獨自一人在怨天怨地好。是不是？」

突然間，電話傳出來的再不是一把嬌滴滴的聲音；而是一把我非常熟識的聲音。我想不會是他吧？不過事實始終是事實，他的確是他；他就是我的男人、我的戀人、在我心中佔有非常重要的男人樂天。

「志平，想不到我會用這個方法跟你說話吧！現在你已經知道我的不瞞，辦法還是由你想出來的。你不會介意現在出來說清楚吧。我在老地方等你。」樂天不等我會覆便已掛上電話了，可況正如他說辦法是我教的，我又怎可以說不呢！但當其時最令我疑惑的是我跟樂天真的有一天說不上十句話，兩個月來沒有一起出外吃飯看戲；更加難已想像的是我們沒有做愛已經有兩個多

理由。

一是放棄「口難開」這條熱線，因為他的不瞞是來自自我沒有時間陪他；以往我不曾聽過這樣的投訴，所以一定是它的問題；但剛剛口難開才有少少成績；現在要我放棄，我是不甘心的。今次這個難題真的難到這個所謂專家了，幫別人解決問題時是如此輕鬆自如；一旦問題落在自己身上，就變得老鼠拉龜無從下手。還沒有想到完滿的解決辦法，我已經到了酒吧了。唯一可以做的是看樂天了。但結局很出乎我的想象，是完美的。

「志平，這裏，要喝什麼嗎？」樂天並沒有給我難堪的面色，反過來是笑容滿面，真的令我費解。

「志平，不用怕。我不會要你放棄這條熱線的。而你亦知道我是很愛你的，所以亦不會跟你分手。」



## Australia

Forty gays and lesbians have joined a class-action lawsuit against the state of Victoria Police Force in Melbourne, charging false imprisonment, assault and misfeasance (the wrongful and injurious exercise of a normally lawful act), according to local newspapers. In early August, the police raided the gay bar the Commerce Club and spent over three hours strip-searching all 463 customers, allegedly looking for drugs. Six patrons were charged with drug offenses, one with assault on a policeman, and one with use of indecent language. The police department has launched an internal investigation into the raid.

## Australia

At the National Lesbian Conference in Brisbane last month about 80 separatists repeatedly disrupted the meeting until they succeeded in forcing organisers to eject male-to-female transsexuals. Queensland Pride, a local gay newspaper, reported the confest "was marred by radical-separatist action which included death threats against members of the Brisbane confest collective." Damage to personal property was also threatened, if lesbian transgenderists were not banned from attending the event.

## Mexico

New Mexican President: 'We Don't Ask!'

The Tijuana newspaper Zeta asked new Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo if he would include gays in his cabinet. He responded, "Well, in Mexico people are never asked what their situation is in this regard." ("Pues, en Mexico nunca se le pregunta a la gente cual es su situacion en ese sentido.")

Can you say, "Don't ask, don't tell" in Spanish?

## South Africa

Lesbian Launches Gay Group

A lesbian who was lashed as a teenager for saying she was gay has launched the first gay-rights group in South Africa's Transkei region, a black homeland. Lesbians and Gays in Transkei, based in the capital of Umtata, has seven members, according to the Weekly Mail and Guardian Newspaper. "There has been no single moment in my life where I have felt good about myself," Vera Vimbel told the newspaper. "I thought we should start changing people, changing attitudes, making people proud to be who they are."

## USA

The Tobacco giant Philip Morris has launched a new brand of cigarettes targeted at gay people. They have for the first time started advertising in a gay US magazine 'Genre'. The new brand to be called Special Kings will be an 85 millimetre version of its already established upmarket cigarette. Philip Morris is already playing down its advertising in the gay press, saying that advertising in 'Genre' is only a fraction of a media plan that includes GQ and Esquire.

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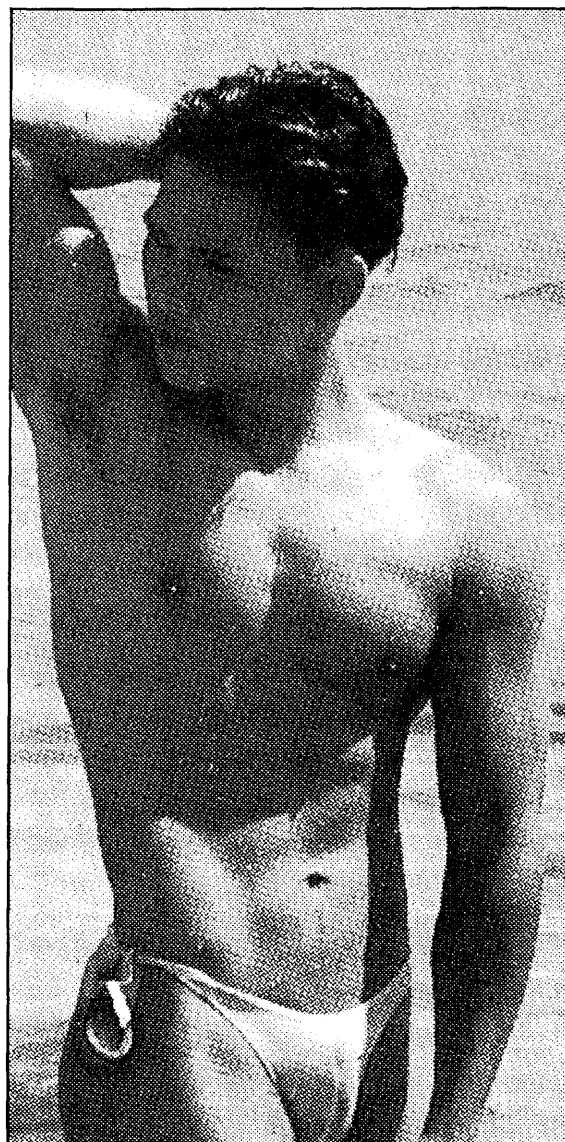
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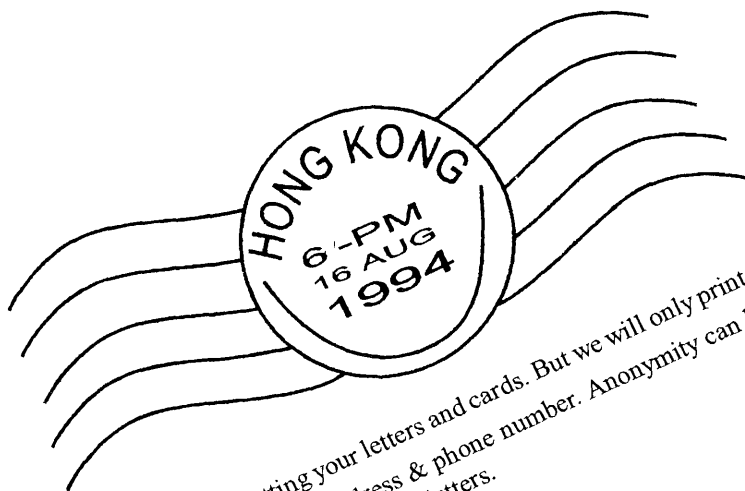
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# Out about

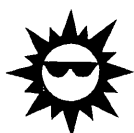


**We love** getting your letters and cards. But we will only print them when they have your name, address & phone number. Anonymity can be requested. We reserve the right to edit all letters.

**Dr. C.H. Leong** ("Call me C.H.") denying rumours that he is in any way homophobic, told us "I'm not sure of the numbers of homosexuals, I er mean gays, there are in Hong Kong. But I think there's more than the quoted 10%.

C.H went onto say, "I wouldn't hold it against anyone who has that sexual preference, I er mean orientation." "Anyway some of my best friends are gay" he concluded.

As well as being Chairman of the AIDS Foundation, Leong is also a Legislative Councillor and said he had spoken strongly for decriminalisation three years ago.



Where, Oh Where are the nudes beaches in Hong Kong? a reader asked. Easy to answer that! There are no nude beaches in Hong Kong ...because it's against the law. We do know that some nude-ish sunbathing goes on what's known as the rocks, an area between Middle Bay Beach (where all the gays go according to East Week). Middle Bay Beach is a short walk from Repulse Bay. Further on is South Bay, a much nicer and these days more frequented by gay crowd. Have fun but don't burn!

## Quote of the Month

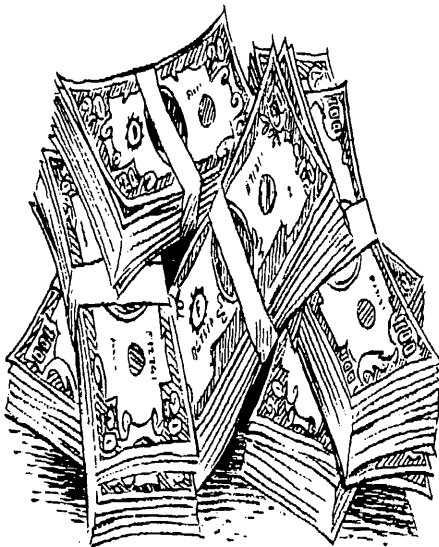
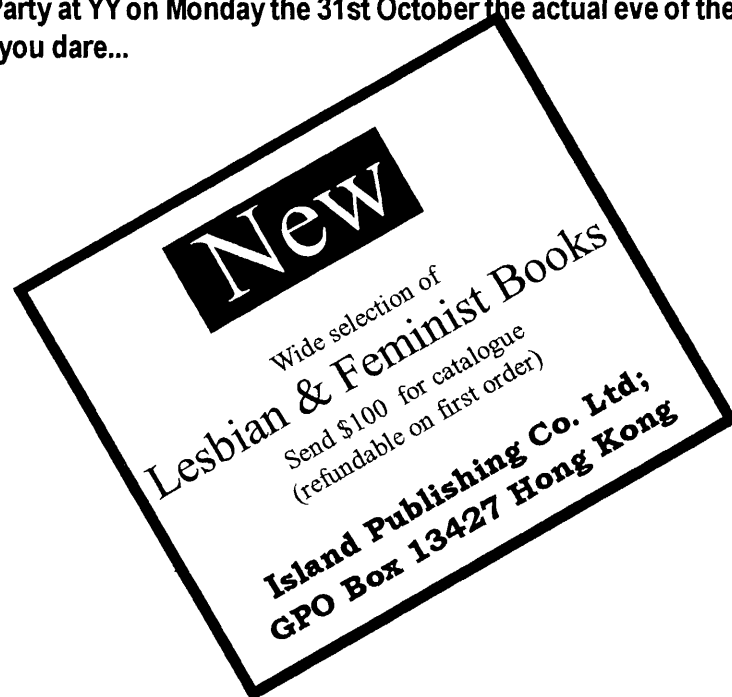
**"It's cool to suck dick"**

Markey Mark



Halloween. It seems that every year there are more and more places celebrating what is, after all, a pagan festival. Halloween is said to be the eve of the night in which all ghosts, devils and the like stalk the earth. Well we're not too sure about that, but what we are sure about is the CE Top is holding a BBQ and Disco party on Saturday 29th from 6 p.m. There are some excellent prizes for the best (should that be worst?) dressed witch, vampire or devil. Just turn up and sample the devilish delights!

Siren Productions aka Greg Derham, (he of cross dressing fame at '97) are also holding a Halloween Party at YY on Monday the 31st October the actual eve of the dreaded night. Be there if you dare...



Fund-raising Diva Bang Bang La—Desh has produced some astounding results for Movement Against Discrimination. Since starting in June, they have raised over \$39,000! What's more, the expenses have been so small they didn't even bother to charge them! Well Done, Robin & Gang, your efforts are well appreciated by them that know!

# The Nature of Things?

## Having to Justify Being Gay

By Eugene J. Patron

One of the wisest friends I know lives in a chicken coop. A "recovering theologian," Matthew, his wife Biljana and their twin 11 month old daughters passed the last winter in a stunning loft-like space which once was a commercial chicken farm on the edge of Pennsylvania Dutch country. Both New York liberals, a teaching job at Temple University in Philadelphia and the lure of country living brought them to "Fundi" country — a land of fundamentalist evangelical churches and baby sitters who listen to Christian rock music.

The local's excitement at having a learned man of God for a neighbour has begun to wear thin as they discovered Matthew is not one for bible thumping. At his alma matter, Union Theological Seminary in New York, Karl Marx, John the Baptist, and a host of contemporary lesbian thinkers are the stuff of heated intellectual discourse. It's thus doubtful Matthew will be invited to speak at church picnics this summer.

A self described "lesbian trapped in a man's body," relating far better to women and gay men than his straight, male peers, Matthew has probably given more thought to the socio-political struggles of gays and lesbians than have most same-sex practitioners.

"Be careful with this issue of biology and human nature," he warns as a long afternoon of discussion turns to the hypothalamus: the tiny part of the brain which evidence now points to as being a deciding factor behind homosexuality in men. According to Matthew, history has shown that when people start talking about human nature or biology, it becomes a matter of control by one group over another.

All too often I have heard friends and family try to be supportive of my own homosexuality by saying, "well of course it has to do with biology. No one would chose such as difficult path as being gay."

Would, I wonder, they dare say to an African-American man that no one would chose to be black? Or the same thing about being Jewish? Yes being gay can be difficult, but doesn't the process of standing

up to and overcoming adversity build pride?

Human nature has too often been used by society as a cop out by which to absolve itself of difficult responsibility. Rather than accepting homosexuality as one more facet of nature's wondrous diversity, the future holds the frightening prospect of society labelling such a condition, like chronic depression.

If my homosexuality is simply human nature or a fact of biology beyond control, what value then will society ascribe to my creative output, the words I write,

which deal with my sexuality? Sitting in this one time chicken coop, drinking strong Turkish coffee thew's ancestors suddenly the tion of whether master over, or slave to

my instincts, looms very large.

"Anyone can be gay - it's no accomplishment," said Ned Rorem, the composer. "But only I can be me."

I know my friends and family mean no harm by looking to biology to explain why I am the way I am. Yet in effect, what they are doing is looking for justification of my being gay. So too are many gays and lesbians. Why, we ask, do we stand apart from what the mass takes for granted? Perhaps an even more pertinent question is why we even feel the need to look for an answer.

The reason is that society has not found a place for us yet. Being gay means rocking the boat and though sometimes there is a great appeal to being rebellious, taking to

the streets and shouting "We're queer and we're here!" it can also be wearisome — for both gays and straight people.

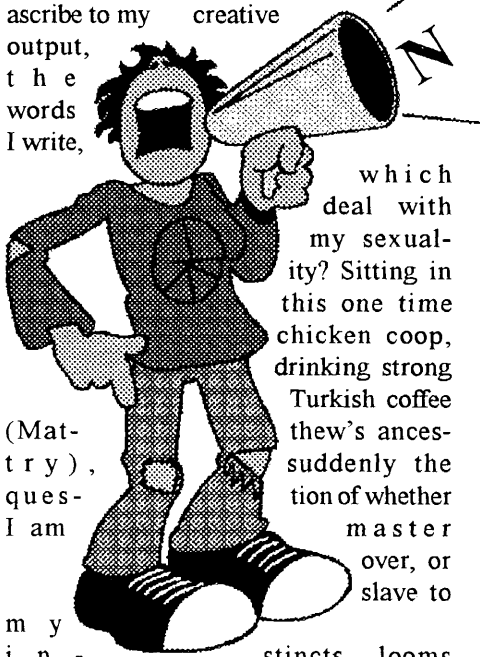
"Why don't you tell your neighbours you have a gay Jew over for the weekend," I joke as Matthew and Biljana carry the twins out onto the lawn. They too have been feeling a bit out of place, both enjoying the beauty of their new home, but aware that they are among people who view the world in a very different way form themselves.

Yet they are not loving in opposition to those around them. The push and pull of competing values and ideas in society may shape what they believe and in what direction they chose to lead their lives. But they do so as individuals, creating their own identities and not projecting a code of beliefs on anyone else.

Likewise, being gay is part of who I am as an individual. At the same time, who I am and what I think are not merely results of my being gay. There is no simple cause and effect to personality. Homosexuality may be a fact, but like a piece of a puzzle, it is worth little by itself and the whole is incomplete without it.

Those who seek to justify my sexuality are in fact judging me as a whole. Countless minorities face the same dilemma of society passing judgement on them. That, perhaps more than anything, is a sad fact of human nature - the need to set someone apart in opposition to ourselves.

Never one to take an easy path, Matthew is leaving theology behind for philosophy. Whatever veiled nuances there are to studying things heavenly, trying to account for man's actions seems almost more maddening. It is a puzzle we have to solve from within ourselves. Gay people are not superfluous pieces of this puzzle, but simply ones whose place has not yet been found. And until that happens, society will remain a puzzle unfinished and lacking cohesion.



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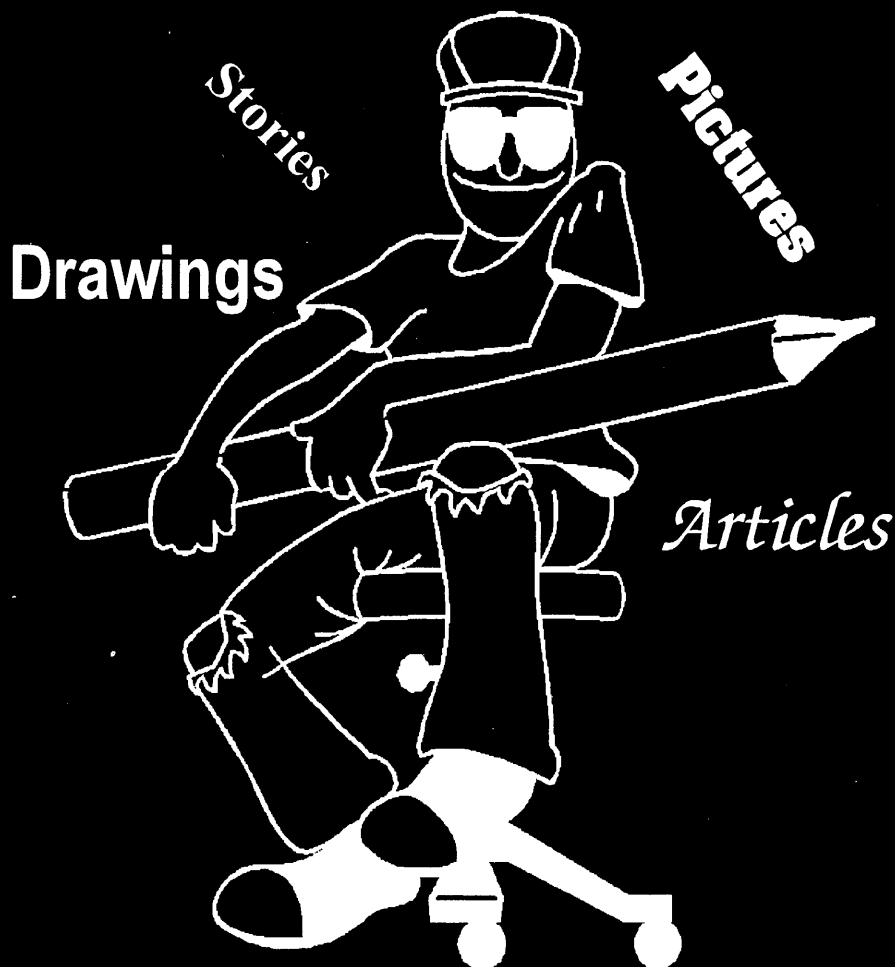
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# Will the real Madonna stand up?

by Mireille Holland

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"Come on girls, do you believe in love?" This is the first sentence of Madonna's mega hit *Express Yourself*.

It all started in Madonna's childhood. She remembers getting fingered by her girlfriend Moria. Madonna tells us about it in the movie *Truth or Dare - In bed with Madonna*. Moria on the other hand does not seem to remember much of it. But she was convinced after Madonna said: "Oh yes, I remember looking at your bush."

The second woman was Erica Bell, a black dancer. Madonna used to live with her when she lived in New York trying to become a star. Erica told in a TV show that they used to share beds...

Madonna became famous and, after her marriage with Sean Penn, rumours started about Madonna sleeping with actress Sandra Bernard. The two were very close and Madonna and Sandra laughed about all the people obsessed with knowing what they were doing. Together they sang *'I got you babe'* at a charity for the rain forests of the world. After the performance Madonna screamed: "Don't believe the shit about Sandy and me!" But Sandra said, "Please believe it, it's all true!" "I prefer to believe it's true," said Madonna in a later interview. She also added, "You can believe what you want. You may be wrong but, suppose you're right?"

During the *Blond Ambition Tour* Madonna seemed to be very close with one of her backup singers, a beautiful woman called Nikki Harris. They held hands while being photographed and interviewed by MTV. They also kissed and held each other on stage during the introduction of the band.

Then in 1992 Madonna got to know top model Naomi Campbell. They were very

close and Madonna's comment was: "I fell in love with her immediately." Naomi also appears in Madonna's forbidden book *Sex*.

Talking about the book *Sex*, one of Madonna's hottest dreams described in the book is about a girl she meets on the beach. The story goes, there she is laying on the beach watching the sunset and there appears this beautiful blond-haired girl. The

girl watches her and tries to find out if Madonna is 'alive'. They kiss, they come and Madonna asks the woman: "What's your name?"

During the writing of the book Madonna had another girlfriend, a beautiful Latin American girl named Ingrid Casaras. They were seen together in clubs and Madonna wrote letters about them in *Sex*.

On her last album *'Erotica'* Madonna

sings a song about lesbian sex. It's called *'In this life.'* Parts of the lyrics are: "In case you don't know already, dining out can happen down below. And you can eat all and you don't get fat. Where else can you go for a meal like that?"

In an interview for a Swedish magazine Madonna explained why she sang the song: "I want to help stamp out homophobia from the world and I want people to respect us, so I sing about it."

Madonna's show *'The Girlie Show'* has the songs *'Deeper and Deeper'* and *'Why it's so hard'* she pretends, as she's singing to them, that she's making love with the female dancers.

**Maybe one day Madonna will 'come out' publically about her lesbian orientation as rock singers Melissa Etheridge and k.d. lang have done. It seems, at the moment though, she'd rather keep people wondering.**



# Me'Shell, Ma Belle

## From Barber School to Madonna's Maverick Label

**M**e'shell, the lone woman in Madonna's stable at Maverick Record, had just about given up her dream of getting a recording deal this time last year. "I was told that I didn't groove, that my lyrics were lacking something, that I sounded like a guy and androgyny was out," says the 24 year-old. "I was ready to quit music. I started at Acme Barber School, a place I found in the phone book."

Then came Madonna. Her "people" caught Me'Shell's performance at the New Music Cafe in Manhattan, and a few weeks later the young musician was fact-to-face with the woman herself in Los Angeles. "I'm across from her, dripping with sweat," recalls Me'Shell. "She's sitting there eating rice cakes and gum balls. I couldn't believe it."

That meeting led to *Plantation Lullabies*, Me'Shell's funky album, a mix of rap, rock, husky vocals and slow-grind throw-down music. Me'Shell, who got her start in the Washington, DC, go-go scene during the '80s, writes all her own lyrics and music and plays bass guitar and keyboards. "We used to have love songs like

'Ain't no woman like that one I got,' but now we have 'I wanna get freaky with you,' she says. "I wanted to write good love songs that say, 'Oooh, yes, talk to me.'"

Other tracks have a political flavour. Her favourite is "soul on Ice," a tribute to the 1967 book by Black Panther Eldridge Cleaver. "Like the song says, we've been indoctrinated by a white, racist standard of beauty," she explains. Me'Shell first put her politics into play several years ago by changing her "government" surname, Johnson, to Indege Ocello, or "free like a bird" in Swahili. "When I was Me'Shell Johnson, I did things I wasn't proud of," says the performer, who lives in Harlem with her four-year-old son, Askia. "And when my son was born, I wanted him to have a name that means something." His name means "one who steals the throne."

Being a lesbian also means something to Me'Shell, although she has sometimes felt pissed for it by other black musicians. When she brought Shari, her lover of two years, to rehearsal with a certain well-known rap group last year, one band member informed her that she "being detrimental to the black cause."

"Just because I'm gay doesn't mean that I don't have a love of black people," says Me'Shell angrily. "Anything I can do to uplift the race, I would do. How can who I love affect my commitment to the black cause?" With a slow smile, she adds, "I told that guy, 'Man, get out of my face!'"

**Linda Villarosa**, senior editor at *Essence*, originally wrote this article for *Out Magazine*



# Media Watch

## Keeping the closet locked!

By Eric Tsang

**I** am most distressed by Mr. John Smith, the closeted homosexual, and his group Homosexuals Anonymous, featured in an article in the Eastern Express.

As readers can tell, Mr. Smith is suffering from serious internalised homophobia and is attempting to justify his fear by encouraging other people to share his disgust, guilt and hypocritical lifestyle. He admits that he fails to follow his counsellors advice to accept himself, finding it "the hardest task of all."

Mr. Smith seems to have confused sexual orientation with sexual identity and lifestyle. Regardless of whether he believes one's sexual orientation is a genetic or social product or a combination of both, his internalised homophobia is festering because it is his sexual identity that he cannot accept.

Mr. Smith's group should be named Gay Anonymous, not Homosexuals Anonymous. Homosexuality refers solely to one's sexual inclination. People who are sexually attracted to others of the same gender are homosexuals and they often satisfy their desire by engaging in same sex sexual practices. The attraction or the action does not constitute someone to be gay.

"Gay" is an identity, a social construct, defined by homosexuals who want to be acknowledged and treated as equals in society. Gays are homosexuals who are prepared to take up this responsibility to negotiate with society, in the way they are comfortable with, for their rights. Gays are not to be frowned upon by people who are different from them and certainly not disgusted by themselves or their peers.

Gay lifestyle is defined by gay people. The



*"If a bullet should enter my brain, let that bullet destroy every closet door"*  
Harvey Milk.

dominant heterosexual model can only be used for reference but not as a blueprint. Gay lifestyle does not equal promiscuity or infidelity. Until the day when gays have secured their rights and acceptance in society, gay lifestyle is going to be a battle, a continuation of the civil rights movement, not only what people do in bed behind closed doors.

Mr. Smith is a man who sleeps with men but also happens to be in an unconsummated marriage. He admits that he has no sexual relationship in his marriage. Mr. Smith cannot deny his homosexual identity because his sexual attraction for men already defines him as one and he has no choice in his inclination. He could choose not to have sex other men. But he does not. Mr. Smith has CHOSEN to live up to his homosexual self. He chooses to use other men to sexually relieve himself just as he chooses to use his marriage to gain social acceptance.

What he does not choose is the responsibility to help himself, his family and other homosexuals and gays lead a more honest, nurturing and fulfilling life. His homosexual self is not his "character weakness," to use Mr. Smith's own words. His self denial and his denial of responsibility and his cowardice in accepting challenge from society are his weaknesses.

Homosexuals Anonymous claims to help participants "eliminate homosexual experiences and redirect our (members)

thoughts into a heterosexual environment." Mr. Smith personally is definitely not denying himself of pleasure from his sexual encounters with the same sex. In short, Mr. Smith is a hypocrite.

What Homosexuals Anonymous is trying to do is preposterous. We are already living in a predominantly heterosexual environment, and this environment is not going to change one's sexual orientation. It only has an effect on how we perceive our orientation and how we define our sexual identity. Gay people were also born by heterosexuals and most of us were brought up by couples of the opposite sexes or single parents. Yet our parents' lifestyle has not made us less gay.

Unless Mr. Smith was brought up by a same sex couple, he does not seem to have learnt much from his parents as far as his orientation and sex life are concerned. He has inherited the heterosexual culture, uses it as the norm for himself and is now trying to impose this ideology on other closeted homosexuals.

I would strongly encourage Mr. Smith and those who are involved with his group to call Horizons on 359-3195, The Hong Kong Ten Percent Club on 692-7506 or St. John's Counselling Service on 525-7207.

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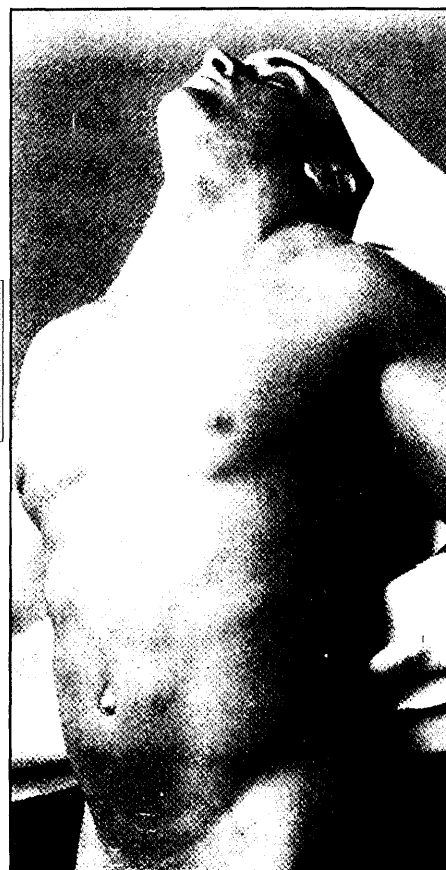
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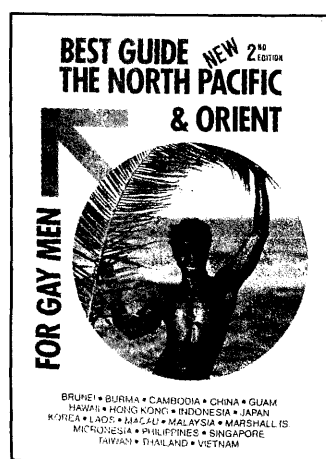
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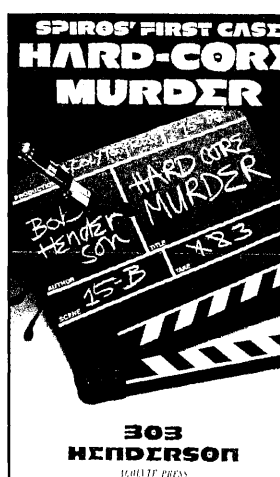


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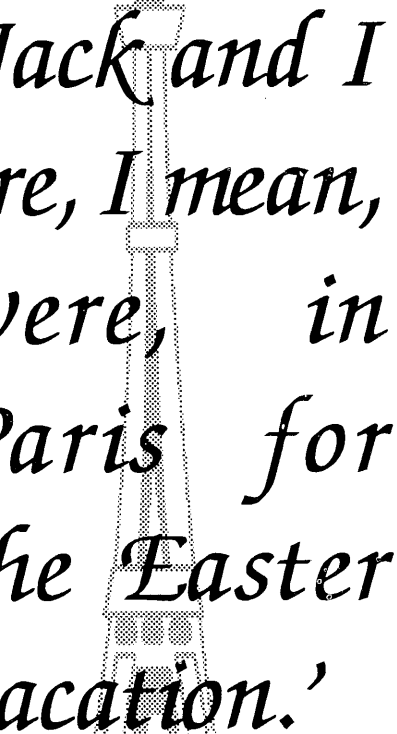
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# A FRESH BLANKET

Short Story

by

Michael P. Mau



*'Jack and I are, I mean, were, in Paris for the Easter vacation.'*

**"Hello, long distance calling for Clarence Lo in Hong Kong? This is the international operator. Will you accept a collect person to person call from Mr. Ricky Chow in Paris?"**

**"Huh? Yes, What is it? Okay, uhmm, I guess."**

**"Hello, Clarence, sorry to wake you up like this. This is Ricky."**

"What's the matter? What time is it?" said Mike looking at the alarm clock. "Jesus, it's four in the morning! Where are you?"

"Jack and I are, I mean, were, in Paris for the Eastern vacation. Jack died of a heart attack this afternoon. I don't know what to do. I can't speak French. The ambulance took him away. He's in some refrigerator at the district morgue. Please, Clarence, help me!" said Ricky.

"I'll be on the next plane to Paris. Where are you staying?"

"At the Meridien Montparnasse, near the Gare Montparnasse. Do you remember?"

"Of course, I remember. We stayed there together two years ago. If I take the Air France flight this evening I'll arrive at Charles De Gaulle tomorrow morning. Can you handle things until I get there?"

"I guess so, I have no choice. I'm afraid, Clarence. The police were so cold, just hauled him away and told me to call the British Embassy tomorrow. I couldn't think of anyone else to call. I really appreciate it."

## AIR FRANCE RESERVATIONS

"Just get some rest until I get there."

"I'll wait for you at the hotel."

"Okay, see you tomorrow morning."

Clarence couldn't sleep. He got up and packed his suitcase then went out for a jog around the Mid-Levels. My love is in trouble. I've got to get to him, he thought.

By 8:30 he was waiting at the mid-level branch of the Hong Kong Bank. He drew money out of his savings and went straight

down to the Air France agency.

"Sorry, sir, if you have to leave on tonight's flight, it's booked solid," said the agent.

"Miss, I must get on tonight's flight. I'll sit in the aisle if needed."

"You'd get in everybody's way with those long legs. Oh, wait! The computer shows a possible cancellation, ah, yes, you're lucky. There's one seat left in business class. Do you want it?" she said teasing him.

"Yes, of course."

"Here's my calling card. If you have any problems with this reservation, please call me." The agent smiled broadly and winked at him. Her eyes followed him as he left the agency.

Back in his small mid-level apartment, he telephoned his best friend. "Hey, Matt, I'm leaving for Paris tonight."

"Are you nuts? Or following a hot French trick?"

"Neither, Ricky called last night. Jack's died and he's stranded in Paris."

"Leave him there, Cal. They both deserve it after what they did to you. A 40 year old rushing half way around the world for a 25 year old kid. Are you out of your gourd?"

"But he needs me, Matt!"

"Where was he when you needed him?"

"Matt, we'll talk about this later. You've got the keys to my apartment. Keep an eye on the incoming faxes. If you see anything important, I'll be at the Meridien Montparnasse."

"Alright, but don't tell me I didn't warn you. Fools are born everyday."

After settling in for the twelve hours flight, he began thinking, it's been 18 months since Ricky ran off with Jack. Just like that. Up and left me, as we were struggling to make our business survive during the first year.

He said he still loved me, but needed a change. Yeah! Jack's rich—beautiful apartment on Repulse Bay, Mercedes, antiques, boat—the whole expat package. While he was travelling from resort to resort with Jack, I was working day and

night to keep this business going. Now I've got a going business and no lover.

Tears clouded his eyes. He felt limp as that old stabbing pain of rejection invaded his body.

Instantaneously, the pain in his back returned, the sciatic nerve shot an electrical bullet through his right leg. His calf seemed to explode.

"Would you like an aperitif, Monsieur?"

"Oui, S'il vous plait. Un petit Perrier avec un peu de citron," said Clarence in flawless French. The physical pains receded as he saw the hostess sweet smile.

Yes, I still love him. We were more like close brothers. Still haven't washed that blanket with Rick's familiar odor. Just smelling it makes me feel like he's still in the apartment with me. He's like family to me. Maybe even closer to me than my real brother.

Or maybe he left because our sex life was boring. Yeah, I had some quickies on the side. Nothing serious. But he, damn it, was having an affair with my best friend. Damn that guy! Damn both of them! My best friend who was

supposed to take care of Ricky while I was on business trips. He sure took care of him, alright. They'd even do it in our bed.

"Here's some feuilleté de pâte de foie gras, sir. Is something wrong, sir?"

Clarence frowned as he looked up at the hostess. "Non, ça va bien," answered Clarence. He tried to smile. The feuilleté tasted good.

Jack sure is ugly, bless his heart. Looks like the Hunchback of Notre Dame. Bald, too. I heard he does the urinals. With looks like that, it had to be Jack's money that attracted Ricky. What a price to pay!

"Vous parlez bien le français," said the French businessman seated next to him. "How did you learn it?"

"I studied in France many years ago... and have used it in my business."

"What kind of business, may I ask?"

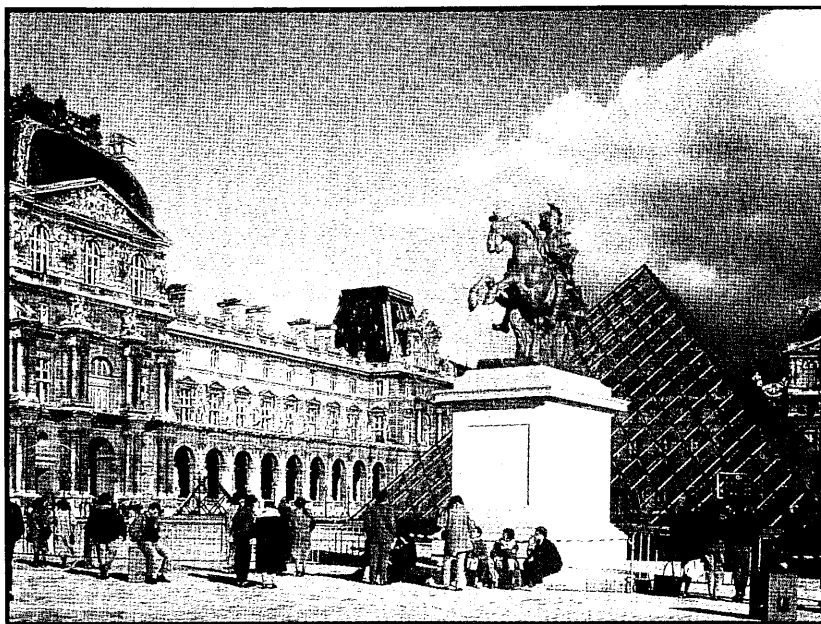
"Trading with China," said Clarence evasively.

"I guess most of Hong Kong does that. Trading what?" the Frenchman persisted.

"We trade art reproductions. Objects d'art. Copies that are made for various museum gift shops around the world. It was quite a struggle getting it off the ground but now it's doing very well. And you?"

"I'm an engineer with the Franco-Sino atomic energy electric plant at Daya Bay. Oh, here's dinner." They continued to chat through dinner. They exchanged business cards after the digestif, and the Frenchman nodded himself to sleep.

Clarence's thoughts drifted back to Ricky. It's been three months since I last saw him.



We met on the street, and he shook my hand. Like two strangers meeting for the first time. Boy, did that hurt. Tears welled up in his eyes.

I guess he felt bad too. He tries to stay in contact with me. What really grabs me is that he has to sneak around Jack to see me. Me, his lover of three years!

The Hunchback must be the jealous type. I should call and leave messages on their answering machine just to give them something to argue about. I heard he's scared shitless of me. He'd better be. Oh well, what's the sense now. He's dead. What's the sense of ruminating about this. Forgive and forget. Clarence took another stiff drink and fell into a deep sleep.

When he arrived at the Meridien Montparnasse, he spotted Ricky in the lobby talking to a European man in a business suit. Clarence felt a slight pang of

jealousy.

Ricky was dressed in tight black Levis and a white T-shirt. His jet black hair contrasted against his otherwise hairless, delicate cameo skin. But his tight, slim muscles gave him an unmistakably masculine allure.

Ricky turned around, excused himself, and ran toward Clarence.

"Thanks for coming," he said hugging Clarence. Clarence could feel a slight stiffening between his groin despite the long, tiresome trip.

"That's okay. You look fine as ever. What's left to be arranged."

"I notified the British Embassy about Jack. They need to inform Jack's family in England. I don't know who they are. Never met them. Don't know how to contact them."

"You've been living with the guy for almost 18 months, and you don't know anything about his family?" Ricky broke down and started crying. The bellman gave them a strange look and shook his head.

"Sorry, I didn't mean to yell. Let's go up to the room. We can't talk here."

"I can't go up there."

"Okay, I'll check in to my own room."

After checking in, Clarence called the British Embassy again. By piecing together information from Ricky and from Jack's passport, he was able to give them enough information to trace Jack's family. The Embassy official said they would arrange for Jack's body to be flown back to London.

"Can I stay with you in this room?" asked Ricky.

"Sure, did you check out of the other room? How about Jack's clothes and personal belongings?"

Ricky shrugged and looked sheepishly at Clarence.

"I guess that's why I'm here, hun? To get you out of this bind—financially, I mean," said Clarence.

Ricky looked at Clarence, then stormed out of the room.

Clarence sat down by the window. He was red hot. Matt was right. I'm just a damn fool. Got me over here just to pay for his room, he thought. Without his sugar

daddy, he's got nothing. Just good looks. Using what shreds of love I have for him to get me half way around the world to pay their hotel bills. is that all I'm good for in his eyes? Maybe that's all I really was to him. A free ride. A sugar daddy...at least until he could find a richer one. No, it can't be. Then again, he did take a thousand dollars out of our joint account when he left me... to buy all those fancy clothes to snag Jack.

The jet lag from the long trip was finally hitting him. He drifted off to sleep.

He awoke when he heard Ricky open the door to the room.

"You're back."

"Sorry, I ran out like that...but..."

"But what? Go on. I'm listening," said Clarence fully awake now.

"Stop talking to me like that. Can't you see I'm upset?"

"Yes, I forgot. You're grieving. You think I'm not upset? You drop me for Mr. Money Bags, he dies, and you call me half way around the world to pay your bills. You're nothing but a glorified..."

"Glorified what?" said Ricky, his back up.

"Never mind." Clarence couldn't bring himself to call Ricky a prostitute.

"Look, I didn't bring my credit card when I came on this trip," said.

"Because he paid for everything, right?" added Clarence. "And you want me to take over the payments?"

"You're always so unreasonable. You don't understand. You're always shouting at me.

You never listen to what I'm saying."

"I don't need to listen. I just see with my own eyes what you're doing."

"Alright, it just looks that way to you. I'll pay you back when I get back to Hong Kong."

"Do you have a plane ticket back to Hong Kong?" asked Clarence.

Ricky paused, then started to cry again.

"Well, answer me," insisted Clarence.

"No."

"How did you get to Paris? On a one way ticket?"

"Please, stop shouting. I was travelling as the 'free companion' on Jack's frequent flyer program. With him gone, I'm not sure they'd let me use that ticket."

"Did you check?"

"Yes."

"When?"

"A couple days ago, right after Jack died."

"Before you called me?"

Ricky hesitated. "Yes." He realised that Clarence had finally trapped him.

"I thought so," said Clarence. "Still using the affections of the older man to pay your way."

"Think what you like, but it isn't like it appears. I'm in trouble, can't you see? You're the only one I could turn to."

"You're in deeper trouble than you think," said Clarence.

"Now, I'm sorry I asked you to come."

"Thanks for the invitation."

"Forget it. I'll handle this whole matter myself."

That night they slept in separate beds.

The next day Ricky used his good looks and charm to convince the gay airline representative to let him use the free companion ticket to return to Hong Kong.

Clarence paid both hotel bills without any further argument and took a separate flight back to Hong Kong. The Air France 747 pierced the heavy, grey Parisian clouds into a bright clear day. The muddle he had lived with for 18 months seemed to dissipate.

Back in Hong Kong, he rushed home and threw some things into the washer. He grabbed the telephone and dialled his friend, Matt.

"I'm back."

"Well, you sound okay."

"Guess what I just did?"

"I just put that dirty blanket in the washer and gave it a double dose of FAB scented double concentrated detergent."

"Right on, man! It's about time. That thing must be stiff as a board by now. Hey, join me for coffee in an hour and tell me all about it. By the way, should I arrange that dinner with Bobby?"

"Bobby?"

"Yeah, that gorgeous musician who's been pining over you at the Blip Cafe."

"Sure, why not? I'm free, now. Ready to soil another blanket."

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# in Japan

by Ben Jonai

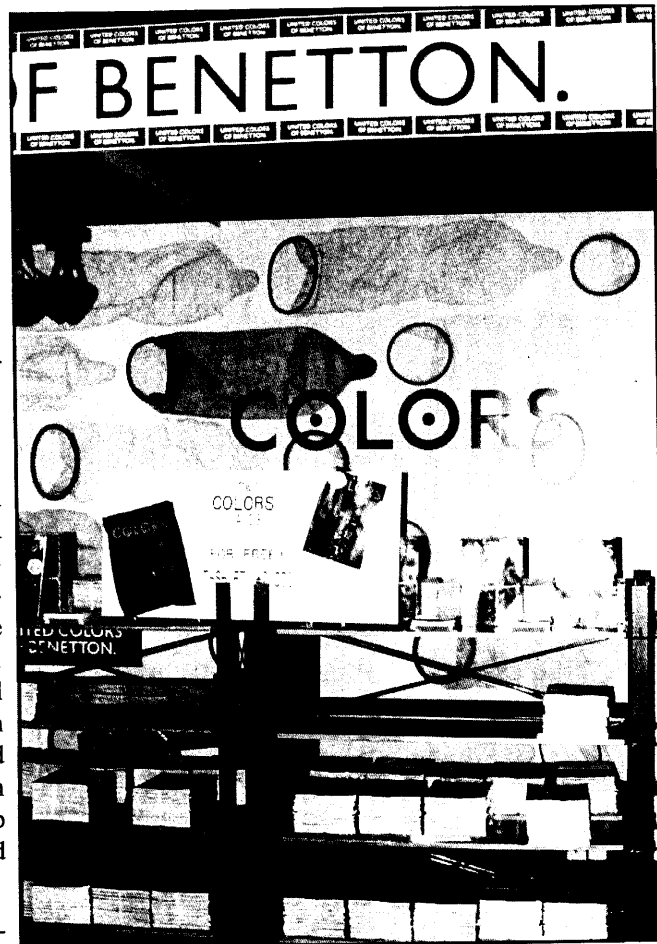
# HIV-AIDS

**The International Conference on AIDS, the Tenth, was held for the first time in Asia in Yokohama from 7 - 12 August. . Because of its costly registration fee, 80,000 yen and 35,000 yen for students ( approx. HK\$633 and \$2,750) ordinary people could not afford attend this conference.**

At the opening ceremony, some people from Europe planned to demonstrate against His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Japan but they didn't put it into practice, because that would only have made them lose their prestige in Japan. The highlight of the ceremony was the speech of Mr. Toshiro Oishi, the representative of "Global Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS." He was the only speaker who didn't make a bow to Prince Hironmiya. He asked people living with HIV and AIDS among the audience to stand up. I was in another hall of the conference centre and watching the ceremony in the main hall through the large video screen with my friends. It was impressive that not a small number of the audience stood up in both halls. We were so deeply moved that we clapped our hands—even in the sub hall. Noticeably he was also the only speaker who was applauded from the sub hall.

There were some interesting medical sessions, such as 'Long Term Survivor' (people living with AIDS for more than 10 years), but the rest of the sessions were well-behaved chaos. Each person was talking about their situation in their own country. People from USA spoke about the human rights of People with AIDS. Some people from South East Asia spoke about prostitution that comes from poverty. Some Japanese people told us about haemophiliacs infected with AIDS because of tainted blood products. In conclusion, each country has its own problem with AIDS, and people don't care much about the situations of other countries. Some of the speakers, except those who were involved with medicine, were irritated because speeches didn't go together. But it was interesting that a woman who called herself a "sex worker" instead of a prostitute said that sex workers could teach their customers more about AIDS.

In many ways, the conference was useful. There were many booths used by gay groups and AIDS groups from many countries, including AIDS Concern & AIDS Foundation from Hong Kong, in the exhibition hall where people could get to know each other. Along with this conference, another group held a free conference called



AIDS Culture Forum in August. This committee was organised by civilian groups and more easier for ordinary people to understand. Unfortunately there were some small problems: The display of Red Ribbon was destroyed and thrown away. Then the committee could not cope with a person who seemed to be mental deranged who visited the forum at the end of the session. Worse still, the AIDS Quilt display was stolen from in front of Sakuragicho Station. It seemed that AIDS was not taken as a serious problem for some people.

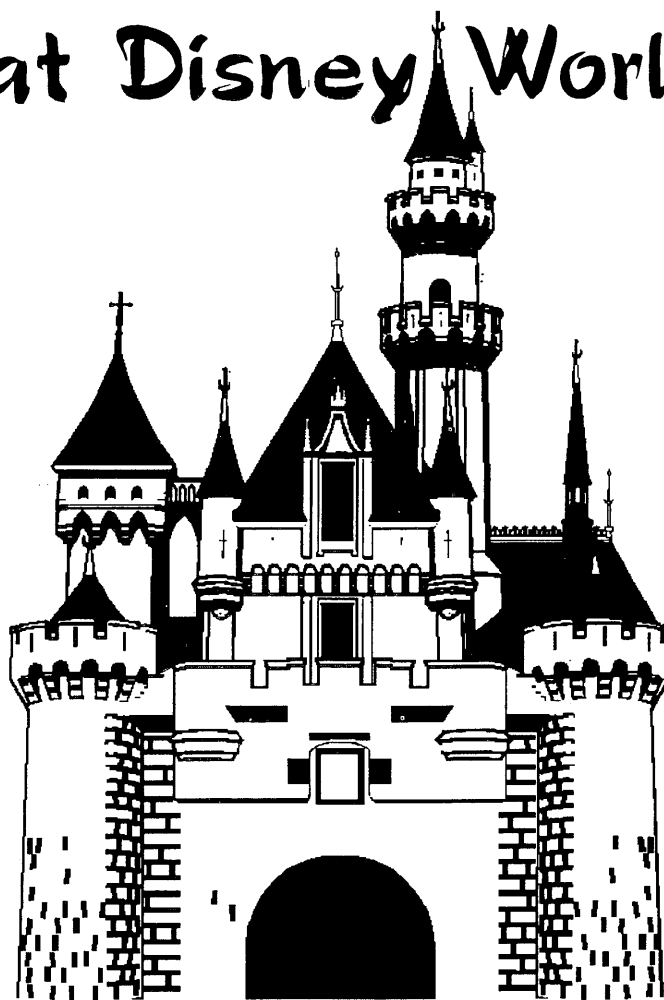
After the forum, on 28 August, International Lesbian & Gay Association (ILGA),

one of the groups, held another meeting and sponsored the first Tokyo Lesbian & Gay Parade. More than 1,000 people paraded from Shinjuku to Shibuya in Tokyo. The participants, especially lesbian groups, were in high spirits. They walked waving flags and shouting "Come out, come out, lesbians." They were powerful enough to make passengers gaze after them with wonder. Compared with lesbians, gay men were not so showy. It seems most of the gay people in Japan do not wish to come out. They only want human rights as gays. This requirement might be similar to that of America. But the situations are different. Basically, there is no law against being homosexual nor is there any harassment by police in Japan.

The gay groups' members are also need the same livelihood protection as anyone else with AIDS not because they may have got AIDS through sex. They are just as much at risk as haemophiliacs from AIDS. Haemophiliacs infected, because of blood products, are receiving 240,000 yen every month from the government besides free medical care. Bereaved families are also receiving about 180,000 yen monthly, even though it is limited to 10 years. This requirement has little chance of being granted, because most Japanese people already have public health insurance which pays from 70% to 100% of the medical charge. The maximum the patients needs to pay is 50,000 yen monthly. This amount of money would vary person to person depending on their annual income.

At the conference, an aggressive woman said that the Japanese government should make prostitution legal. Clearly she didn't know Japanese law. Prostitution between men and women is illegal as is common in many countries. But, prostitution between the same sex is not considered as such, because there is no law against being homosexual. There are many gay bars with blue boys (male prostitutes) in Japan. What they are doing is legal. It may sound funny that letting any woman enter gay bars is illegal! Bar managers often make the excuse that they thought she was a transvestite, as it's legal for them to go to gay bars.

# Gay Day at Disney World



**Billed as this festive event is held during the first weekend of June. 'A Day of Magic, A Night of Pleasure,' the event begins at the Magic Kingdom with everyone wearing red T-shirts.**

The attendance is high and the crowd is very well behaved, contrary to the typically falsified reports of 'oversexed perverts cavorting in front of children.' There is the usual parade that passes in front of Cinderella's castle at 3 p.m., where the crowd tends to meet. This year while waiting for the parade to start, the crowd was rather enthusiastic and did a bit of whistling at the cute men walking by, and had to be quieted by the Guest Relations crew.

The evening continues at Pleasure Island Disney's nighttime entertainment complex made up of several bars, restaurants, and comedy clubs. The party takes place at the always popular Mannequins Dance entertainment complex made up of several bars, restaurants, and comedy clubs. Mannequins tends to be a gay-hangout, especially on Thursday nights, which is Cast Member (employee) night. So for this event, the crowd swells in more ways than one. It was your typical dance and bar scene, with some men wearing no more than nipple rings and daisy dukes, bumping and grinding, as best they could given the packed house. Seriously, you couldn't move, it was so packed. I'm sure the unsuspecting tourists have a lot to write home about. The event is not officially sponsored by Disney and the only recognition (despite 75 percent of their employees being gay) is placing a sign at the front of the park, which reads: "Members of the Gay and Lesbian community have chosen today to attend Walt Disney World and celebrate as a community. While this event is not official sponsored by the Walt Disney World Company, we welcome all guests and do not discriminate or discourage their attendance."

# 十分一會的第一次

之

## 支持反歧視法案



(左)十分一會發言人黎仲強(中)十分一會主席Felix Wong(右)反歧視大聯盟主席麥海華,三人均表示同性戀者跟其他人應該有相同的權利,不應受到任何的歧視。(蔡敬文攝)

受到影響?他笑著說:「假如有,便再開多一次記者會吧!」

雖然今次是十一會的首次記者會,但黎仲強給別人的感覺是非常鎮定;將記者要問的問題都一一招架。

但最遺憾的是每當記者問及會務時,他都不肯直接回答。如記者問十分一會會員人數,黎仲強則表示每年的數目都不同;而本年度尚未完結,而去年的亦不能公開,所以如今並不能公開會員的人數。

另外還有記者問及十分一會的會員有否在政府任職。當其時的回答是任可職業都會有同性戀者。

以上的答案都表示黎仲強並沒有正式回答記者的問題。但在某報章的報導是「十分一會大概有數百名會員,男、女同志的比例是三比一」而另外一份報章更大字標題說「港府官員參與同性戀團體。」既然黎仲強沒有正面回答他們的問題,那他們的報導就有待商榷了。

無論如何今次十分一會的記者會可以說是踏出了成功的第一步,就是透明度不足;希望下次的記者會會有更高的透明度。

Thomas Choi

十分一會成立於一九八七年,至九一年政府正式決定同性戀非刑事化後才註冊成爲一個社團組織;到今年九月十二日首次舉辦記者會,成立了八年後的今日才有一個記者會是不是有點「遲」呢?答案是否定的。黎仲強表示最主要的原因是現在的同志社群比以往成熟,何況今次的記者會不單是十分一會的事,而是整個同性戀社區的事。十分一會之所以要舉辦今次的記者會的主要原因是支持立法局議員胡紅玉女仕所提出的平等機會法案,所以今次的記者會並不遲,而且可說是把握良機。

出席今次記者會的有十分一會主席Felix Wong,會發言人黎仲強及反歧視大聯盟主席麥海華。

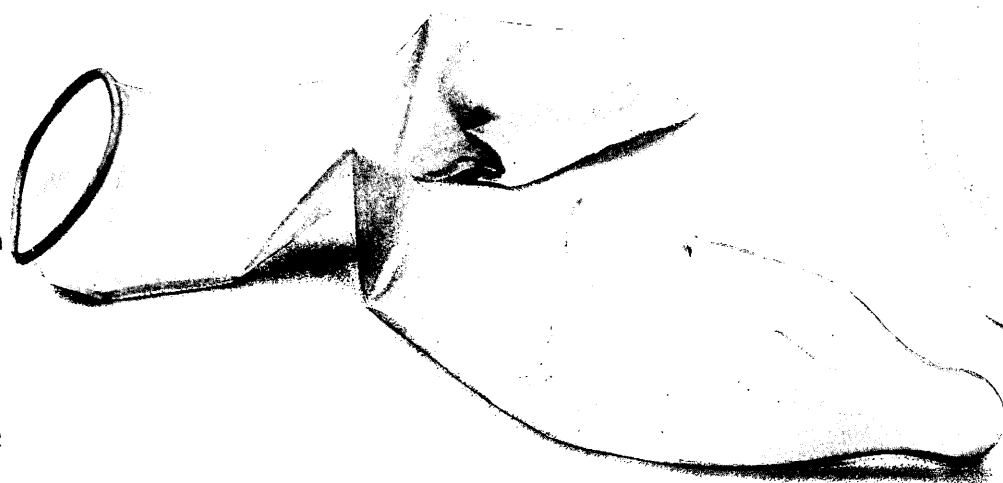
黎仲強很強烈表示同性戀者跟其他人並沒有分別,但無論在住屋、就

業以至到個人生活上都受到很大的壓力和歧視。壓力的主要原因是來自社會各階層人士的歧視。而令到大部份的同性戀者都不敢坦白承認自己的性傾向;唯恐別人一旦知道後便會令到其自身的環境做成很大的困擾。如住屋問題:黎仲強表示曾有一名會員就因爲其業主知道他是一名同性戀者而不肯續租。而在就業方面就更加不能給別人知道自己是一名同性戀者,假如其顧主得悉後可能會被辭退或在晉升機會上有一定困難程度。

黎仲強再三表示不論在住屋、就業、教育、出入公共場所或是想加入某些會所,一旦給別人發現你是一名同性戀者,都會受到若干的歧視或被拒諸門外。

當記者問及黎仲強今次暴露自己是同性戀者,有否害怕在晉升機會上

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# 紙手 巾帕

自懂性以來，同性戀總給我一種異常強烈的感覺，一種渴望擁有的慾望，但基於無知，家庭及社會的壓力，我一直壓抑著這個蘊藏在心底的慾望。

直至今年，一位要好的朋友從東京學成歸來，向我揭示了自己的性取向，我得了前所未有的啓示。在這一個月裡，我倆結伴到同性戀夜店溜達，生活了廿多個年頭，我終於嘗到了難忘且難過的第一次。對於我這個成年「新秀」來說，在進行時真的不知所措，完事後更百感交集。委屈、不安、難過……這一切並不因為罪惡感的作祟，而是那遺棄的感覺。然而，打擊最大的莫過於和我上床的男人，是我最要好的朋友的男人。同性戀者常被形容為生活於黑暗世界之中，而我卻是生活於黑暗世界中心的最黑暗處，我真是不知如何是好！

同性戀的世界真的如此零亂不堪嗎？我們不是應該先有愛，然後才去造愛嗎？為甚麼要倒行逆施？！我想一切的倒行逆施，祇是源出於一時的衝動。

離開的時候，我感到自己像極一張沾滿排泄物的紙巾，沒有人會把弄污了的紙巾留於身邊！但從今天，我不要再做紙巾，我要成為手帕，不論沾了多少污穢，祇要一經清洗，又可回復清新面貌。

好友對我說，他發現男友浴室中多了一支藍色牙擦，我沒有任何反應，因為那個早上，我沒有擦牙便離開了。

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# Flying the Flag

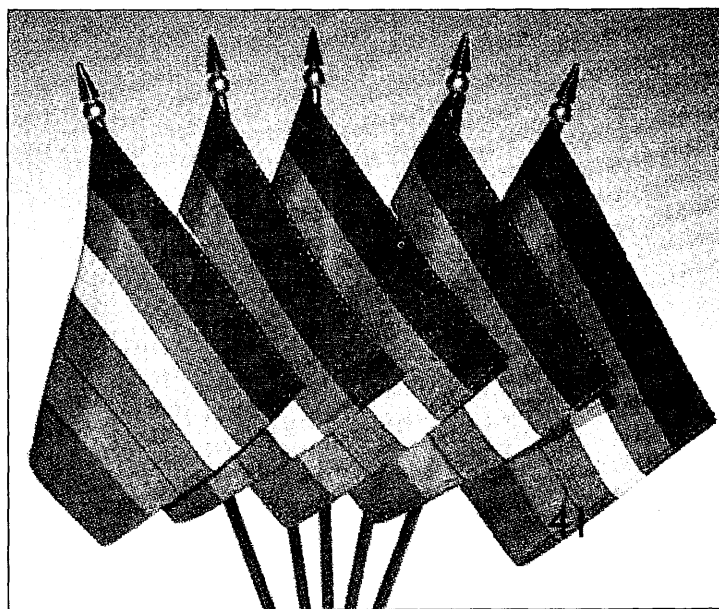
By Toby Manning

Wherever you turn these days, you come face to face with a Rainbow Flag. Where did it come from, what does it mean, and why is it already supplanting the Pink Triangle?

I first came across the Rainbow Flag on a trip to America last year. "That must be a gay bar, it's got the gay flag outside it," said my (straight) friend. The gay flag? Since when was there a gay flag? He was right though. It was a gay bar. And so was every other bar that displayed the flag outside. Asking around when I came back to Britain, I discovered my ignorance wasn't untypical, and a lot of people are still unsure exactly what it is, or even that it exists. However the flag, variously called the Rainbow Flag, the gay flag or the Freedom Flag is now being taken up in a big way in Britain: used by Pride, by political groups like Stonewall, and by queer business like Freedom Cars and Dangerous To Know videos.

The flag was designed by artist Gilbert Baker in San Francisco back in the heady days of 1978, as a symbol of gay and lesbian community pride. Inspired by the five colours Flag of Race, the rainbow flag actually predates the adoption of the pink triangle as a gay liberation symbol, and it may well come to supersede it. Baker's original flag contained eight stripes, but it has gradually lost stripes along the way to accommodate printing capabilities: ironically pink (for sexuality) and indigo (for harmony). The now familiar six stripe flag has the following colour: red (for life), orange (for healing), yellow (for sun), green (for nature), blue (for art) and violet (for spirit).

As Baker's colour associations reveal, the flag is an archtypically San Franciscan concept; equal parts hippie and gay, the city being home to hippies as well as a Mecca for gays. The flag quickly took hold among San Francisco's gay community, becoming a gay territorial marker, particularly visible all over the Castro district,



hanging over balconies, out of windows, and outside gay bars. After the assassination in 1978 of Harvey Milk, San Francisco's first openly gay supervisor, the 1979 Pride Parade Committee took up the flag, and Randy Shilts' *And The Band Played On*, describing the 1980 Gay Freedom Parade, mentions "the rainbow flag that had become the standard of California gays." In 1989 John Stout successfully sued his landlords in LA when they stopped him displaying the flag from his apartment balcony.

Long associated with the West Coast, the flag has now become an American national symbol for lesbians and gays: queer activist and writer Simon Watney describes it as "the gay stars and stripes." Displayed outside bars, it avoids the nudge, nudge, wink, wink allusiveness of queer bar names in Britain. The flag has been adopted as the symbol for the lesbian and gay March On Washington, in emulation of the 1953 Civil Rights march, at which Martin Luther King delivered his 'I have a dream' speech beneath the Lincoln Memorial. This year the Freedom Flag was used to create a mile long rainbow along Fifth Avenue to mark the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riot. The Stonewall 25 celebration was a stunning spectacle as tens of thousands of lesbians and gay men marched on the United Nations

Building.

However the flag's meaning is still far from universally understood, even in America, although, for what it's worth, it is now recognised by the International Congress of Flagmakers! A friend in New Orleans insisted the rainbow flag outside the gay bars in the French quarter was the Miller beer company's flag! The confusion was caused by Miller's adoption of the flag for their beer mats and posters in New Orleans, although nobody I spoke to at the Wisconsin, Milwaukee-based company seem to know quite what it had been adopted for! The obvious

assumption is that it's simply an astute marketing strategy - another acknowledgement of the economic clout of gay men in America. While there's a kick to be gained from such public acknowledgement, giving lesbians and gays a sense of ownership of their environment, such marketing strategies simply make profits out of queers by offering up an illusion of power that in reality they don't actually possess.

Although the rainbow flag is now to be seen all over America, there are still more to be seen in San Francisco than anywhere else - bedecking windows and balconies all over the Castro, Noe Valley and North Beach. Helping a friend one day on her meals on wheels rounds for PWAs in the poorer parts of the city, hidden away behind the mountain, we'd notice a gay flag with a certain sinking feeling. That's where we'd be delivering the meal. The display of the flags was both touching - for its bravery in a non-gay area - and depressing for obvious reasons.

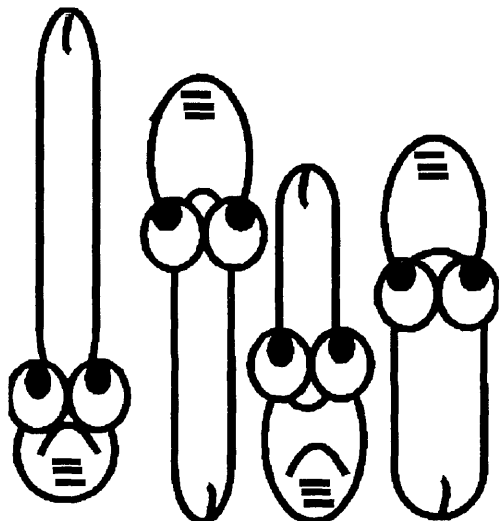
(Reprinted from *Gay Times* June 1994)

# Size...

Discord in Europe over average length of male private member

By Hein Verkerk

Nel van Dijk, MEP for GroenLinks, Netherlands, has asked the European Commission (EC) to intervene in the ongoing bickering on the EC norm for condoms. The week the German weekly *Der Spiegel* ran a story on the two years long ongoing discussion in the commission for European Norms about EN 600, the European norm for condoms.



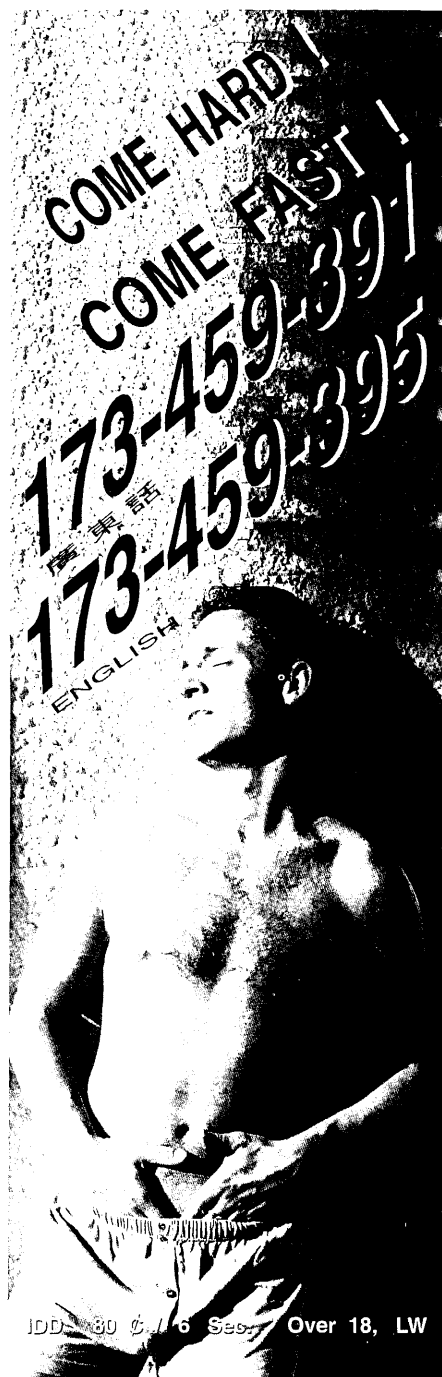
*Der Spiegel* referred to a recent published study in the British Medical Journal that is putting questions on the compromise on the more or less agreed average measures of the European private member (penis), estimated at 17 cm length and 5.6 cm width. The British research results indi-

cate that these measures won't fit the English male. Van Dijk is asking if the European Commission is not of the opinion, that in view of the sensitiveness that among other things is linked to the fixation of the average length of the private member of the European male, it should consider to settle the matter with application of the often praised principle of subsidiary. Or maybe even solve the question by issuing a European Charter for the Condom. The Member States could opt out if the estimated average of 17 cm length and 5.6 cm should not suit them. "And if the gentle-

men really get stuck in this burning matter, maybe the male member itself should be 'normalised'. I am curious to know what kind of solutions the red-tapers in Brussels will present in that case." said Nel van Dijk.

\* Hein Verkerk, is the Press Officer for GroenLinks in the Euro-Parliament.

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**Chinese, 44, in Malaysia, regular Hong Kong visitor. Seek non-effeminate Chinese 44 and below for friendship. Photo and phone number appreciated. Box 133**

**University Graduate, good looking and personality, Chinese 24. Seeks western guy who is caring and reliable. Letter with photo. Box 145**

**Chinese, 26, straight-acting. Looking for a very mature guy (40's-50's) for genuine relationship. Looks and nationality not important. Box 139**

**Chinese looking for a real friend. I'm 30, strong and tough outlook. Gentle and romantic inside. Intelligent, creative, love the country. Seeks friendship and hopefully meaningful and committed relationship with a 35-45 leader-type GWM who is smart, loving, mature, successful, influential and challenging. ALA (those with photo). Box 130**

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**Decent University student, 26. Into computer, movies and movies. Seeks sincere non-camp guy for serious companionship. Box 137**

**Educated, good looking and personality Chinese 27. Seeks western guy with quality for friendship or more. Photo/phone would be nice. Box 138**

**Chinese male, 30, nice, sincere, University graduate. Seek mature and sincere guys for companionship. Box 136**

**Western mature guy recently arrived Hong Kong. Looking for a cute young Chinese boy for companionship etc. Photo confirms reply. Box 140.**

**Caring, good-looking, 28 local guy expecting younger resemblance for steady relationship. Photo and phone appreciated. Box 141.**

**Highly educated Chinese. I am into European art, looking for monogamous relationship with a special person who enjoys art and films. Non scene. Box 127**

**Gay Chinese, 26, 170cm, 60kg, passionate and quiet. Very much in need of love. Enjoy travel, movies, music and reading. Seeks great kisser who is caring, active, reliable, generous, experienced, dead straight. Non smoker. Letter with photo. Box 132**

## MIXED

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## WOMEN'S

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### **BA**

1/F Flat D, Cheung Hong Mansion,  
25-33 Johnston Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.  
Tel: 527-7073. 2:00pm.-2:00am.

### **● BOBSON FITNESS CLUB**

35-37 Hankow Rd, 3/F Flat D,  
Mag Building, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.  
Tel: 376-2208. 3:30pm.-1:00am.

### **● CENTRAL ESCALATOR**

2/F., Cheung Hing Comm. Bldg.,  
No. 37-43 Cochrane Street,  
Central, Hong Kong.  
Tel: 581-9951. 1:00pm.-1:00pm

### **GAME BOY'S**

2/F, 324 Lockhart Rd, Wanchai, Hong Kong.  
Tel: 574-3215. 12:00am.-2:00am.

### **JJ PARK**

3/F, Flat A, Fairview Mansion,  
51 Paterson Street.,  
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.  
Tel: 882-2399. 3:00pm.-12:00pm.

### **KK**

16/F, Block A,  
Fuk Lok Bldg.,  
19-21 Jordan Road, Kowloon.  
Tel: 388-6138. 2:00pm.-2:00am.

### **ROME CLUB**

2/F Chiap Lee Bldg, 27 Ashley Road,  
Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.  
Tel: 376-0602. 3:00pm.-12:00am.

### **YUK TAK CHEE**

G/F 123 Prince Edward Road.,  
Kowloon.  
Tel: 393-9505 12:00pm.-12:00am.

## SHOPPING

### **GEAR**

Ground Floor,  
4 Anton Street, Wanchai, Hong Kong.  
Tel: 527-1557

### **MEMBERS CONNECTION**

UNIT 27-28 Basement,  
New Phoenix Shopping Centre,  
15-31, Hysan Avenue,  
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.  
Tel: 576-9774



## COUNSELLING

### **PEER COUNSELLING**

By appointment only. The only professional counseling service for gay men in Hong Kong.  
Tel: 817-7129.

### **THE SAMARITANS**

Tel: 896-0000

### **HKU PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNSELLING CENTRE**

HKU, Bonham Road,  
Western District, Hong Kong.  
Tel: 859-2308

### **ST. JOHNS COUNSELLING SERVICE**

St. Johns Cathedral, Garden Road,  
Central, Hong Kong.  
Tel: 525-7207; 525-7208

### **24 HOUR HOTLINE**

English 173-969611  
Chinese 173-969612  
(calls charged at \$1 for 6 seconds)

### **AIDS INFORMATION & HELPLINES**

### **AIDS CONCERN**

G.P.O. Box 3350, Hong Kong.  
Helpline: 898-4422. General Enquiries: 898-4411

### **AIDS HOTLINE (DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH)**

Tel: 780-2211

### **AIDS FOUNDATION**

General Enquiries Tel: 560-8528  
Helpline: 513-0513  
Infoline: 170 222 170



## SOCIAL GROUPS

### **THE 10% CLUB**

P.O.Box 72207 Central Post Office Kowloon.  
Tel: 692-7506

### **HORIZONS**

G.P.O.Box 6837 Hong Kong.  
Tel: 359-3195

### **BEACHES**

**Middle Bay Beach**  
South Bay Road, Hong Kong.

**South Bay Beach**  
South Bay Road, Hong Kong.



**● Contacts Magazine sold here.**

In the silence of darkness, there are stars and hope.  
We offer support and service.

在寂靜的黑暗中  
仍有星光和希望  
我們樂於提供

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本會所提供的服務包括：

- ✧ 愛滋病毒抗體測試
- ✧ 援助基金
- ✧ 互助小組
- ✧ 個人輔導
- ✧ 及其他服務

We offer the following services :

- ✧ HIV Antibody Blood Test
- ✧ PWA Support Fund
- ✧ Support Group
- ✧ Personal Counselling
- ✧ And More



香港愛滋病基金會  
**HONG KONG AIDS FOUNDATION**

熱線電話 AIDS Helpline 513 0513



# HALLOWEEN



**DATE** 29:10:94(SAT)

**TIME** 6:00PM. TO 2:00 AM.

**LOC** CE TOP 9/FI., 37-43 Cochrane St., Central, H.K.

**ENTRANCE** \$80 (Inc. 2 drinks)

**KARAOKE: 6-9**

**DISCO: 9-2**

**FANCY DRESS PRIZES**

(1ST :\$1,000)

**FOOD (ROOF B-B-Q)**

(2ND :\$500)

**LUCKY DRAW**

(3RD :\$250)

**GHOSTLY COCKTAILS**

(SEVERAL  
OTHER PRIZES)



Daily Opening Hours : 1:00pm to 2:00am

2 and 9/FI., 37-43 Cochrane St.,

Central, Hong Kong

(Entry in Gage Street,

opposite Park'n Shop's entrance)

Tel: 544-3581 or 581-9951

Café, Sun Lounge,  
Sun Bathing  
&  
Showers

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Shower

Dancing &  
Available  
for Private Parties

Karaoke  
Lounge  
&  
Drinks

Steam  
Bath

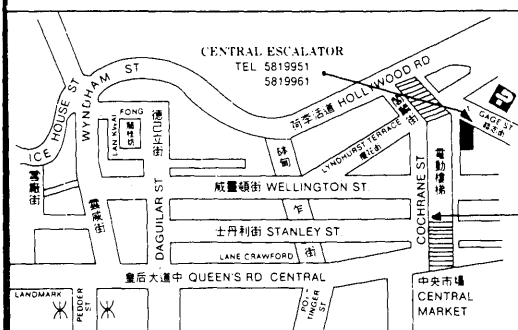
**CE  
TOP**  
9/Floor  
Tel: 544-3581  
Tel: 581-9951  
2/Floor

TV & Videos  
Rooms

**Central  
Escalator**

Karaoke  
Rooms

Rest  
Rooms



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ESCALATOR**

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祥興商業大廈2字及9字樓  
(結志街入, 百佳超級  
市場入口對面)  
電話: 544-3581 或  
581-9951